

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01102 051149Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 COME-00 MMO-01 SP-02

A-01 PER-01 /050 W

----- 062645

P R 051125Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2509

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP GR LE KF AMGT

SUBJ: EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY STAY OF BEIRUT RTDO

REF A. STATE 17303 B. STATE 19937 C. STATE 27395

1. AMBASSADOR HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF TWO RTDO'S THROUGH JUNE 30, 1976. WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THIS ISSUE BECAUSE THE PRIME MINISTER, WHILE CONSENTING TO OUR USE OF ATHENS AS A TEMPORARY SAFE HAVEN FOR USG OFFICIAL PERSONNEL EVACUATED FROM BEIRUT, NEVERTHELESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THE AMBASSADOR NOT REPEAT NOT TO TRANSFER ANY USG ACTIVITIES HERE FROM BEIRUT. IN FACT, FOLLOWING THE MURDER BY UNKNOWN GUNMEN OF A SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICER IN DECEMBER, THE EMBASSY IS IN THE PROCESS OF A FURTHER RETRENCHMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF US ACTIVITIES IN GREECE, WHICH WILL PLACE ADDITIONAL STRAINS ON THE LIMITED SPACE AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE EMBASSY BUILDING.

2. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE HAD ANTICIPATED THAT THE RTDO OPERATION WOULD BE LEAVING ATHENS BY LATE WINTER OR EARLY SPRING. HOWEVER, RECOGNIZING THE ADVANTAGES OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO THIS IMPORTANT ECONOMIC MISSION OF BEING LOCATED IN ATHENS, AND WITH THE PROVISIO THAT WE MAY WISH TO REVIEW THE

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SITUATION PRIOR TO JUNE 30 IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN

LOCAL CONDITIONS, EMBASSY AGREES TO WASHINGTON
PROPOSAL IN REFTEL C. KUBISCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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